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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO UEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5406  
INFO RUEHZL/EROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBJ/AMEMASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0329  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKY PRIORITY 0486  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIRITY  
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI PRIORITY 0038

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2769

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PRM](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PO](#) [CH](#) [EUN](#) [YI](#) [SR](#) [BK](#) [IS](#)  
LEIR, TU, AFIN, KPAL  
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL'S POLICIES IN ADVANCE OF THE DECEMBER  
GAERC

REF: A. SESTATE 195044

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 194456

[1](#)C. LSBON 2719

[1](#)D. LISBON 2736

Classified By: ep Pol/Econ Counselor Cari Enav for Reasons 1.4 (b) and  
(d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Deputy  
Director for  
the Common Foreign and Security Policy Ana Filomena Rocha  
provided a review of MFA's preparations for the reftel  
December 11-12 European Union (EU) General Affairs and  
External Relations Council (GAERC) in a December 7  
discussion. On China, Portugal does not support any linkage  
between lifting the arms embargo and approving a legally  
binding instrument and predicts a stalemate on this issue at  
the meeting. Portugal will continue to be the voice of  
moderation in EU-Turkey Accession talks and maintains its  
position of strict conditionality with regard to Serbia's  
accession talks. Spain's proposal for an International Middle  
East Conference would be discussed at the Dec 14-15 European  
Council meeting, not at the GAERC, according to Filamena  
Rocha. FM Amado has already stated that the Road Map should  
be the central framework for any peace agreement. At the  
GAERC, Javier Solana is expected to call on  
Israeli/Palestinian neighbors to play a greater role in the  
peace process and suggest that moderate Arab states  
participate in the next Quartet meeting. Portugal does not  
support the European Security and Defense Policy Initiative  
to work with the Lebanese Armed Forces, (preferring UN  
initiatives) nor does it support the initiative to train the  
Afghani Police Force. Portugal is concerned about  
developments in Iran and believes it is time to implement  
sanctions.

CHINA

[1](#)2. (C) Filamena Rocha said that France is leading the call to  
lift the arms embargo and is threatening to block the  
approval of a legally binding instrument on arms export  
control if the embargo were not lifted. Portugal does not  
support any linkage between the two and predicts a stalemate  
- with neither the arms embargo being lifted nor the legally  
binding instrument being approved. She was non-committal  
with regard to Portugal's position on lifting the arms  
embargo, noting that Portugal did not have a particular  
interest in the issue.

TURKEY EU ACCESSION:

[1](#)3. (SBU) Portugal will continue to be a voice of moderation

during the current debate on Turkey's Accession to the EU and reaffirmed Portugal's support for Turkey's EU membership (ref c).

#### WESTERN BALKANS:

¶4. (C) Filomena Rocha commented that the EU was divided on Serbia's integration into the EU. Portugal belonged to the camp that wanted to maintain strict conditionality - that is, full ICTY cooperation and the handover of Mladic before resuming accession talks. She noted that former Austro-Hungarian member states preferred a softer approach, enticing Serbia with a carrot rather than a stick.

¶5. (U) Kosovo and Bosnia are not on the December 11 agenda. The EU plans to wait until after Serbia's January 21 elections to discuss the situation in Kosovo further.

#### ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN ISSUES:

¶6. (C) Filomena Rocha said that Spain's call for an International Middle East Conference would be taken up at the Dec 14-15 European Council, not at the GAERC. In a separate early December meeting, MFA Director for Middle Eastern Affairs Isabel Pedrosa told post that Portugal remained committed to the Roadmap as the central framework for any peace settlement, yet believed ways must be found to reenergize its implementation(ref D). At the GAERC, Filamena Rocha expected Javier Solana to call on the conflict's neighboring states to play a greater role in finding a lasting solution. He would likely underscore the need for greater financial and political commitments on their part.